

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SIG-01
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 AGRE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /122 R

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EB/ICD/TRP:PPILKAUSKAS
AF/EPS:AJILLSON

-----040239Z 062080 /71

R 032316Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PFOR, IV, US

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON AF ASSISTANT
SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

1. IVORY COAST AMBASSADOR AHOUA, AT INSTRUCTION OF IVORY
COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY BY TELEPHONE ON PREVIOUS
DAY, CALLED ON AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE DECEMBER
30. AF/W OFFICER KILLION ATTENDED MEETING.

2. AMBASSADOR AHOUA EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-
BOIGNY HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SCHAUFLE ABOUT AN ECONOMIC PROBLEM WHICH COULD DEVELOP
INTO A POLITICAL PROBLEM BETWEEN THE IVORY COAST AND THE
UNITED STATES -- THE RECENTLY ORGANIZED CONSUMER BOYCOTT
OF COFFEE IN THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF SHARP PRICE
INCREASES. AHOUA NOTED THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD BE THE
FIRST AFRICAN NATION TO BE AFFECTED BY SUCH A BOYCOTT AND
THAT HIS PRESIDENT AND HIS COUNTRY WERE CONCERNED.

3. AHOUA ASSERTED THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO "COFFEE CARTEL"
SUCH AS EXISTS IN PETROLEUM. THE RECENT COFFEE PRICE
INCREASE IS THE RESULT OF MARKET FACTORS, IN PARTICULAR
THE BRAZILIAN COFFEE CROP FREEZE. AHOUA NOTED THAT
FROM 55 TO 60 PERCENT OF THE IVORY COAST'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE

EARNINGS COME FROM COFFEE, AND 25 PERCENT OF THE POPULA-
TION IS INVOLVED IN COFFEE PRODUCTION. AHOUA FELT THAT
THE PRESENT COFFEE PRICE IS EXCEPTIONAL NOTING THAT COF-
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FEE PRODUCERS DO NOT RPT NOT FORCE UP PRICES EVERY SIX
MONTHS AS DO OPEC NATIONS. AHOUA COMMENTED THAT THE COF-
FEE PRODUCING PEASANTRY OF THE IVORY COAST IS FOR THE
FIRST TIME GETTING A PRICE WHICH ENABLES IT TO AMORTIZE
INVESTMENT, AND HE FELT THEY SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED
BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. AHOUA SAID HE HOPED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT COULD DO
SOMETHING ABOUT THE CONSUMERS BOYCOTT OF COFFEE SINCE HE
FEARED IT COULD BECOME A POLITICAL PROBLEM. AHOUA NOTED
THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH EB ASSISTANT
SECRETARY KATZ EARLIER IN THE DAY, AND THAT HE HAD ALSO
RAISED THE MATTER WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA IN
WASHINGTON. AHOUA THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS THE COFFEE PRO-
DUCING COUNTRIES COULD DO SOMETHING TO LESSEN THE CON-
CERNS OF THE COFFEE CONSUMERS IN THE UNITED STATES BY
ATTEMPTING TO SEEK "MODUS VIVENDI."

5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE ASSURED AMBASSADOR

AHOUA THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM POSED BY THIS CONSUMER BOYCOTT FOR THE IVORY COAST. NOTING THAT CONSUMER BOYCOTTS OF THIS SORT SOMETIMES GAIN MORE PUBLICITY THAN ACTUAL REDUCTION OF CONSUMPTION, SCHAUFLE POINTED OUT THAT IN ANY EVENT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE COULD DO NOTHING TO INFLUENCE THIS CONSUMER ACTION. HE ASSURED AHOUA THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE SITUATION AND WOULD REMAIN IN TOUCH. AHOUA RESPONDED THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S CONCERN DERIVES FROM THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONSUMER OF COFFEE, AND ONCE AGAIN URGED OUR RECOGNITION THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO "COFFEE CARTEL." HE ASSERTED THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IS IN FACT AGAINST EXCESSIVE RISES IN THE PRICE OF RAW MATERIALS SUCH AS COFFEE.

6. AMBASSADOR AHOUA CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HE WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RETURN TO ABIDJAN WITHIN A FEW DAYS FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THIS PROBLEM. SCHAUFLE ASKED HIM TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ASSISTANCE WITH REGARD TO THE US INITIATIVES SEEKING PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. SCHAUFLE ASSURED THAT THESE US INITIATIVES WOULD CONTINUE, AND HOPED THAT WE COULD ALSO CONTINUE TO RELY ON PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADOR AHOUA RESPONDED THAT HIS COUNTRY WELCOMED THE US INITIATIVES IN AFRICA, NOTING THAT FROM HIS NATION'S POINT OF VIEW THIS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST USG FORTHRIGHT INITIATIVES

TOWARD THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA. AHOUA SAID THAT THE IVORY COAST FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE THE ONLY MEANS TO SOLVE THESE AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

7. FYI FOR ABIDJAN: AMBASSADOR AHOUA PLANS TO RETURN TO ABIDJAN JANUARY 5 FOR FIVE DAYS CONSULTATION. AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AHOUA'S RETURN TO ABIDJAN FOR INFORMAL MEETING. END FYI. KISSINGER

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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